

REMARKS

Claims 1-7 are pending in the present application. In view of the amendments and the following remarks, Applicants respectfully request that the pending claims be allowed.

Claims 1-7 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent Publication 2005/0200584 to Kudo et al. (Kudo).

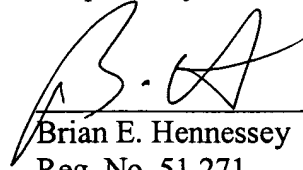
Applicants submit herewith a Declaration under 37 C.F.R. § 1.131 signed by the sole inventor of the subject application, Shinji Endou. The declaration asserts that Shinji Endou conceived the invention and prepared the invention disclosure prior to June 5, 2002, and that the invention was diligently reduced to practice from prior to June 5, 2002 until the filing of Japanese Patent Application 2002-24583. Enclosed with and supporting the declaration are the invention disclosure form in Japanese as Exhibit "A", the invention disclosure form translated into English as Exhibit "B", and a statement as to the accuracy of the translation as Exhibit "C."

Therefore, since the enclosed declaration supports an invention date prior to the filing of Kudo of June 5, 2002, along with due diligence to reduce the invention to practice until the filing of the corresponding Japanese application, Kudo is not prior art with respect to the present application. Consequently, it is respectfully requested that the rejection based on Kudo be withdrawn.

In view of the remarks set forth above, this application is believed to be in condition for allowance which action is respectfully requested. However, if for any reason the Examiner should consider this application not to be in condition for allowance, the Examiner is respectfully requested to telephone the undersigned attorney at the number listed below prior to issuing a further Action.

Any fee due with this paper may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-1290.

Respectfully submitted,



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